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| 09/852,630 | 05/11/2001 | Andrew Strawn | 367.40103X00 | 5351 |
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| ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873 | | | TORRES, MARCOS L | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2687 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 12-15, 17, 19-20, 23-26, 34-36 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Fuhrmann US006347218B1 in view of Kaiwa US006490436B1.

As to claims 1, 12-15 and 49, Fuhrmann discloses an electronic radiotelephone (see col. 1, lines 9-10) comprising a first and second housing for housing electronic components of the radiotelephone (see fig 1, items 1,14) and a biasing mechanism to aid the user to release the second housing from the first housing; the first housing having an element with an operating surface and a formation which co-operates with a complementary formation on the second housing for the user to releasably attaching the first housing to the second housing (see fig. 1, items 12, 13 and 17); the element being movable between a first and a second position such that when the element is in the first position the formation and complementary formation co-operate to allow the first housing to be coupled to the second housing and when in the second position to allow the second housing to be removed from the first housing by the user (see fig 1, 2); thereby allowing the second housing to be removed from the first housing by the user without interference from the element (see col. 3, line 15 - col. 4, line 22). Fuhrman does not specifically discloses the element being resiliently compression biased by the biasing mechanism into the first position and allows a user to urge the element, via the operating surface, into the second position during the removal of the second housing from the first housing to act against the compression bias provided by the biasing

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mechanism and to release the co-operation of the formation and complementary formation. In an analogous art, Kaiwa discloses the element being resiliently compression biased by the biasing mechanism into the first position and allows a user to urge the element, via the operating surface, into the second position during the removal of the second housing from the first housing to act against the compression bias provided by the biasing mechanism and to release the co-operation of the formation and complementary formation (see col. 4, line 52 - col. 5, line 24), thereby helping to remove a case. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine these teachings for an easier removal of the case.

As to claim 2, Fuhrmann discloses a radiotelephone wherein the first housing is presented away from a user during operation of the radiotelephone and the second housing is presented towards a user during operation of the radiotelephone (see fig. 1).

As to claims 3, 6, 17, 23 and 34-36, Fuhrmann discloses a radiotelephone further comprising retaining means for retaining the electronic components of the radiotelephone to the first and second housing (see col. 3 lines 6-14).

As to claims 4, 24-26 Fuhrmann discloses a radiotelephone wherein the second housing has a lip for engaging with the element to allow the first housing to be coupled to the second housing (see fig. 3, 4).

As to claims 8-9 and 19-20, Fuhrmann discloses a radiotelephone wherein comprising a spring associated with the first and second housing and arranged to be compressed when the first and second housings are coupled (see col. 3, lines 20-27).

6. Claims 5, 16, 27-33 and 37-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuhrmann in view of Kaiwa and further in view of MacDonald JrUS006430400B1.

As to claims 5, 16 and 27-33, Fuhrmann disclose everything claimed as explained above except for a radiotelephone wherein the element is a flexible hinge. Weadon discloses a radiotelephone wherein the element is a flexible hinge (see fig. 1, item 18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add these teachings to the Fuhrmann system for easier opening and closing of the cover.

As to claims 37-48, Fuhrmann discloses a radiotelephone further comprising retaining means for retaining the electronic components of the radiotelephone to the first and second housing (see col. 3 lines 6-14).

7. Claims 10-11 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuhrmann in view of Kaiwa and further in view of Guzik 4719322.

As to claims 10-11 and 21-22, Fuhrmann disclose everything claimed as explained above except for a radiotelephone wherein the means for urging comprises a rubber seal associated with the first and second housing and arranged to be compressed when the first and second housings are coupled. Guzik a radiotelephone wherein the means for urging comprises a rubber seal associated with the first and second housing and arranged to be compressed when the first and second housings are coupled (see col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of

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the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add these teachings to the Fuhrmann system for the simple purpose of protecting the internal parts of the device.

Conclusion

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcos L. Torres whose telephone number is 571-272-7926. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-6:00 PM alt. Wednesday Off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester G. Kincaid can be reached on 571-252-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Marcos L Torres
Examiner
Art Unit 2687


mlt


12/22/05
LESTER G. KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER